

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning with the paragraph which bridges pages 3 and 4 of the specification and ending with the paragraph that bridges pages 4 and 5 of the specification with the following paragraphs:

The aqueous emulsion of organic polymer which is sometimes referred to in the art as a polymer latex emulsion may contain as the polymer one or more of a wide range of homopolymers or copolymers. Examples include styrene, styrene-butadiene co-polymers divinyl styrene, methyl methacrylate, copolymers of styrene and methyl methacrylate or maleic anhydride, acrylic and acrylic ester resins, vinyl acetate and copolymers thereof with ethylene and other olefins (e.g. ethylene vinyl acetate), plasticized vinyl chloride copolymers. Mixtures of polymers or copolymers may be also used. It is preferred to employ a polymer with a glass-transition temperature of from -50°C to +50°C. Plasticisers such as Cerecyl or Cereclor (a chlorinated paraffin), dibutylphthalate and diethylene glycol can be added to improve flexibility. Suitable polymer solids contents of the emulsion are from 5 to 80%, preferably at least 25% e.g. from 30 to 70%, more preferably 45 to 65% by weight based on the weight of the emulsion. The dispersible organic polymer is conveniently obtained by drying e.g. spray drying an aqueous polymer emulsion. The dried polymers are available commercially.

The high content of lime (at least 13 weight % of the water absorbing composition (i)) causes an intensive generation of hydration heat ( $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  is produced). As a result the setting time is reduced and the early strength is improved.

According to the present invention the water absorbing composition (i) contains at least 5 weight % of a cementitious composition of which components form ettringite during the absorption of water.

Ettringite is a ~~caycium-trisulphoayuminate~~calcium trisulphoaluminate having 32 ~~moyeeuyes-molecules of~~water of ~~er-stallization~~crystallization and has the ~~formuya-formula~~formula  $3\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 32\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Ettringite is produced ~~b—by the h—dration~~by the hydration of cementitious ~~materiays-materials~~materials containing ~~caycium-ayuminate and caycium-suyphate~~calcium aluminate and calcium sulphate. ~~Uyess-Unless~~Unless the context requires otherwise, the term ettringite in the present specification is intended to ~~ineyude-include~~include ettringite ~~anayogues~~analogues. These are defined in Cement ~~Chemistr—b—Chemistry~~Chemistry by H.F.W. Ta-yor-Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1997 ~~pubyished-b—published by~~published by Thomas Teyford-Telford.

~~Normayy—Normally~~Normally the sum of the weight of the ~~yime-lime~~lime and the weight of the cementitious composition is 67 to 100%, ~~preferaby-preferably~~preferably 90 to 100% and more ~~preferaby~~preferably ~~approximatey—preferably approximately~~approximately 100% of the ~~tetay-total~~total weight of the water absorbing composition (i). ~~“Approximatey-100 %”-“Approximately 100 %”~~“Approximately 100 %” means in this connection that it is possible that (i) does not only contain lime and the cementitious composition (i) but also impurities caused by other ingredients.